Noah	Perkovich
	
	
Economics	of	HB19
-
1159
	Modify	Innovative	Motor	Vehicle	Income	Tax	Credits
	
	
Legislative	Introduction
	
	 Colorado	currently	allows	a	refundable	and	transferable	state	income	tax	credit	for

Noah	Perkovich	
Justifying	Intervention	
	 Greenhouse	gases	exist	in	our	atmosphere	and	to	our	benefit,	they	keep	the	planet	at	
habitable	14	degrees	celsius	(Cassia).	Natural	cycles	add	and	remove	them	from	the	
atmosphere	constantly.	However,	in	1957	scientist	Roger	Revelle	and	Hans	Suess	discovered	
that	most	anthropogenic	greenhouse	gases	stay	in	the	atmosphere.	They	called	it	a	“large	scale	
geophysical	experiment”	(Revelle).	That	is	because	the	gasses	we	are	emitting	into	the	
atmosphere	contribute	to	the	greenhouse	effect	and	will	increase	the	temperature	of	the	
planet	but	the	consequences	are	uncertain.	
Scientists	have	since	modeled	their	prediction	of	the	consequences	of	increased	global	
temperatures.	Some	more	modern	atmospheric	scientists	have	argued	that	hurricanes	will	
become	more	severe	due	to	increased	temperature	(Anthes	4).	Others	have	predicted	that	
some	of	the	US’s	water	sources	including	the	Colorado	River	are	vulnerable	to	significant	
reductions	in	runoffs	(Schneider).	From	most	perspectives,	these	would	be	negative	effects.	
There	are	some	predictions	that	certain	areas	could	experience	positive	effects.	For	example,	
some	have	related	longer	growing	seasons	with	global	warming	(EPA).	Predictions	conflict,	they	
also	have	high	levels	of	uncertainty.	However,	there	is	scientific	consensus	that	physical	and	
ecological	systems	are	going	out	of	equilibrium	and	that	will	ultimately	be	disruptive	
(Schneider).	
	 The	effects	mentioned	above	would	create	externalities.	Some	of	the	externalities	have	
the	potential	to	be	catastrophic	for	people.	The	difficulty	with	these	externalities	is	that	they	do	
not	all	exist	yet	making	them	hard	to	measure	and	harder	to	price.	Regardless	it	would	be	
beneficial	for	government	to	try	to	mitigate	and	minimize	those	externalities	by	slowing	down

Noah	Perkovich
	
Those	externalities	justify	government	intervention	to	discourage	emissions	in	the	
transportation	sector.	HB19
-1159	will	encourage	electric	vehicle	use	with	the	intention	that	it	
will	reduce	internal	combustion	vehicle	use.	This	policy	will	make	only	a	limited
	reduction	in	
emissions	and	ultimately	redistribute	wealth	to	the	wealthy.	Thus,
	this	analysis	recommends	
not	passing	HB19
-1159.	However,	the	analysis	does	recommend	increasing	the	use	tax	on	
transportation	fuel	to	discourage	internal	combustion	vehicle	use	and	reduce	emissions.	
	
Conclusion
	
	
	In	summary,	overwhelming	scientific	consensus	suggests	that	anthropogenic	
greenhouse	gas	emissions

Noah Perkovich

Work Cited